

Chairwomen Osten and Walker, Ranking Members Berthel and Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Lindsay Wyman and I'm a resident of Wilton, CT.

I am testifying in opposition to Governor Lamont's proposed budget (H.B. 6659) and its funding of K-12 public education. I am extremely disappointed to see the governor's proposed budget does not include the full funding of ECS.

While I understand the budget is not exclusively about education, I was most looking forward to seeing Governor Lamont commit to prioritizing education funding given the current realities of our state's education system. It is clear students are still struggling to recover from the impacts the COVID-pandemic had on their educational experience. They need access to additional resources such as mental health professionals, additional tutors, paraprofessionals, and high-quality teachers who will help them navigate through these struggles. Luckily, many districts have been able to use federal relief funds to provide these resources, but these are one-time funds and they will run out soon.

We must ensure students, schools, and communities have access to the funds they need in order to maintain a high-quality education for all children, even after federal relief dollars expire.

I am urging you to do the opposite of what the governor has done in his budget proposal and make full ECS funding for all public school students a priority. With your support, we can ensure all students have the resources and opportunities to be truly successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Wyman
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